GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4629
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
MV HARSHAVARDHANA
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MV Harshavardhana, an Andaman-bound passenger ship with 602 people on board including 11 infants and crew was stranded near Geonkhali in East Mindnapore district of the coast of the Bay of Bengal on July 21, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such events in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a)&(b) : Yes Sir. The vessel sailed from Kolkata Docks on 20.7.2002 evening and anchored at Garden Reach waiting for the tide.On 21.7.2002 at 5.36 hrs she resumed her passage from Garden Reach. While the vessel was rounding waterloo wreck buoy near Geonkhali water intake jetty, the vessel ran aground at 0841 hrs. despite the use of engine in the reverse direction and dropping of anchor. The vessel, was floated during the next high water at 2140 hrs on 21.7.2002 with the help of Kolkata Port Trust. There was no injury/casualty to any passenger or the ship`s staff.

(c) : In accordance with the provisions under the Part XII of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (Investigation & Inquiries) the Directorate General of Shipping is conducting Preliminary investigation for the purpose of finding out the cause of the casualty and to determine the remedial actions with a view to preventing similar occurrences in future.